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**Stephan W. Currie, Executive Director**

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**RE: House Bill 5046, sponsored by Representative Shannon**

Rep. Kara Hope  
Chair  
House Committee on Criminal Justice  
Room 519, House Office Building  
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chair Hope and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee:

The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) understands the reason for this bill is to update fees for court reporters and recorders that have not been addressed in over 35 years. It is critical to pay court reporters and recorders at a rate that incentivizes and merits high-performing work. However, it is requested that with the page fee increases, two critical issues counties have long had with the funding structure of court recorders, can also be addressed:

- 1) Ensuring that work done on county time is given priority, to the extent it does not conflict or interfere with court rule. Some counties have found themselves cited on audits because of “double dipping” concept where court recorders were found to be using court time to prepare transcripts in which they were paid a salary and then additional transcript fees.
- 2) Delineates between supplies/equipment that shall be provided by the reporter/recorder versus the court funding unit. Transcription supplies and equipment is too be satisfied by the reporter/recorder at their own expenses as consistent with federal guidance\*. The funding unit is responsible for items required to preserve the court record.

- a. \*Reference federal guidance (260.50) re supplies:  
[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.aaert.org/resource/resmgr/Docs/Federal\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.aaert.org/resource/resmgr/Docs/Federal_Guidelines.pdf)

MAC recognizes that an increase in fees is certainly due for court reporters and recorders. If the above concerns are addressed, counties can support this legislation.